

REMARKS

Claims 8-23 are pending herein. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-7 have been cancelled, claims 8-17 have been amended and new claims 18-23 have been added.

Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested prior to examination on the merits.

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to include a cross-reference to parent U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/107,242, filed March 28, 2002.

Examination on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,  
SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Frederick F. Calvetti, Reg. No. 28,557  
1850 M Street, N.W., Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Telephone: (202) 263-4300  
Fax: (202) 263-4329

Dated: September 10, 2003